

REMARKS

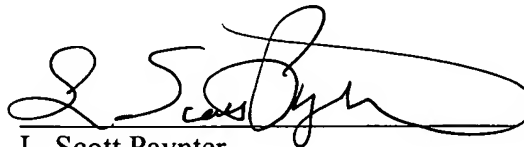
The outstanding Restriction/Election Requirement with a mailing date of September 21, 2006 asserts that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 USC §121:

- I. Claims 1-27 drawn to a process, classified in class 427, subclass 248.1.
- II. Claims 28-40 drawn to a product, classified in class 428, subclass 446.

Claims 1-27 of Group I are hereby elected with traverse. It is respectfully submitted that claims 28-40 of Group II could be examined together with claims 1-27 of Group I without imposing an undue burden. As stated in § 803 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.” Under this standard, it is believed the search of Groups I and II jointly would not impose a serious burden.

Claims 1-27 of Group I are hereby elected with traverse in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.143. Reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing remarks is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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